

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEES.

PRESIDENT : I have to announce that last evening the elections to the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee, the P. W. D. Advisory Committee and the Transport Advisory Committee were conducted by the Deputy President and the following were the results of the ballot :—

The Public Accounts Committee.—Mr. Varkala K. Madhavan secured 48 votes and Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai got 46 votes. Since these two have secured the largest number of votes they are declared elected.

The Standing Finance Committee.—Messrs. Padiyara Joseph Kunju and M. Ramiah Pillai secured 24 votes each. Since these two have secured the largest number of votes they are declared elected.

The P. W. D. Advisory Committee.—Mr. M. L. D'Cruz, Mr. N. Narayana Kurup and Mr. K. R. Narayanan secured 27 votes each and Mr. M. L. Janardana Pillai and Mr. G. Velu Pillai secured 26 votes each. As there was a tie between the last two members a lot was cast and Mr. G. Velu Pillai became successful. So Messrs. M. L. D'Cruz, N. Narayana Kurup, K. R. Narayanan and G. Velu Pillai are declared elected.

The Transport Advisory Committee.—Mr. Kannanthodath Janardanan Nair secured 25 votes and Mr. K. P. Kochukora Tharakan secured 24 votes. Since these two have secured the largest number of votes they are declared elected.

VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(contd.)

DEMAND XVI—INDUSTRIES—(contd.)

Motion No. 503—(contd.)

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Sir, I said yesterday that the labour question in Travancore has assumed great importance in recent years. There are about 300 factories in Travancore employing about 60,000 labourers including 26,100 women and about 8,700 children according to the Administration Report. This does not, I take it, include the large number of cashew factories which do not come under the Factories Act and the labourers in plantations and estates who number many thousands. Their conditions are not satisfactory and their grievances are many. No one considers their grievances as they are mostly unorganised. The Commissioner has no personal contact with the mass of labourers or with responsible labour leaders. He does not find the time. He does not find the time to see if the provisions of the Labour laws are carried out or not. Mostly they are ignored by factory managers and employers as there is no checking and supervision. Conditions are hard. No arrangements exist for collection of authentic statistics relating to labour. Most civilised countries have a separate Labour Department to look after the interests and welfare of labour, for it is only by an independent labour Office that such things can be looked into. The question of emigration of labour to Ceylon and the Federated Malay States is one of very great importance to Travancore as it is to South India.